



# PRELIMINARY SEARCH REPORT

National  
Registration N°

established on the basis of the last claims  
filed before the beginning of the search

FA 622894  
FR 0211501

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Relevant to claim(s)	Classification to the invention attributed by INPI
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages		
D, A	US 5 989 266 A (FOSTER THOMAS L) 23 November 1999 (1999-11-23) * column 6, line 60 - column 7, line 18; figure 7 *	1	A61B17/22
A	US 6 224 612 B1 (BATES JAMES S ET AL) 1 May 2001 (2001-05-01) * column 9, line 23 - line 32; figure 10 *	1,2	
			<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)</p> <p>A61B</p>

Date of completion of the search

May 12, 2003

Examiner.

Ducreau, F

## CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone  
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another  
document of the same category  
A : technological background  
O : non-written disclosure  
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention  
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or  
after the filing date  
D : document cited in the application  
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding  
document

# **ANNEX TO THE PRELIMINARY SEARCH REPORT** **ON FRENCH PATENT APPLICATION NO. . FR 0211501 FA 622894**

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned preliminary search report.

The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP at the date of 05-12-2003

The European Patent Office or French Administration are in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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